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**Subject:** Preparations ahead of Hurricane Sandy

To the research community

As you may have heard, Hurricane Sandy, a category 1 hurricane currently in the Bahamas, is predicted to impact southern New England as an extra-tropical storm between Sunday night and Tuesday. Forecasts indicate significant impacts will be felt in New England with damaging winds, the potential for downed trees and powerlines, and heavy rains and flooding. While the campus should be able to maintain power to most areas and the campus is doing everything they can to ensure it, preparations should begin now in case there may be periods of short or more extended campus power outages and other effects. In addition, there could be significant off-campus impacts for the campus community. PI's, Lab Safety Coordinators, and Lab staff should begin to take steps immediately to preserve their research and to protect their facilities

Some things to think about as you make preparations:

- Identify and make a plan for any research materials that are temperature sensitive (enquire within your department and school or college for the availability of backup power).
- Plan the timing of experiments to avoid the period of highest risk of impact
- Autoclave biohazardous waste before the end of the day Friday
- Do not place orders for perishable research materials
- Inform EH&S if the storage or containment of any materials could become hazardous without lack of power or ventilation, or during flooding events.
- Ensure hazardous materials are properly stored and protected prior to the onset of the storm (keep in mind the potential for flooding in your building and laboratory)
- Ensure that non-critical equipment is turned off and unplugged prior to the storm
- Ensure that the contact information on the lab door card is current and perhaps includes a cell phone number ( make neat corrections if needed)
- Secure laboratories and research areas so that they remain safe if you are unable to return for a day or two

- Prohibit any work in laboratories during the period of highest risk of impact (remember that fume hoods and biosafety cabinets do not operate during power outages)
- Prepare and test a list of contact numbers for lab staff and campus resources and charge up your cell phone

Animal Care Services is making arrangements to ensure staff are onsite and available, despite severe storm conditions. Any concerns regarding Animal Care should be brought to the attention of the ACS Interim Director, Alison Bardwell

Since we will not know the exact track of the storm until well into the weekend, and there may be significant impacts for us on Monday, please use Friday to make your preparations.

Christine A. Rogers, PhD  
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